

Approval of Subject Matter Preparation Programs Submitted by Colleges and Universities and Recommendation for Initial Institutional Accreditation for the Otis College of Art and Design

Professional Services Division

April 11, 2002

Executive Summary

This item contains a listing of subject matter programs recommended for approval by the appropriate review panels, according to procedures adopted by the Commission. The Commission is also being requested to grant initial accreditation to an institution under provisions of the *Accreditation Framework*. This agenda report reviews the adopted procedures to be used for initial accreditation of institutions under the provisions of the *Framework*. The report contains a request for initial institutional accreditation for the Otis College and Art and Design according to those procedures.

Fiscal Impact Summary

The Professional Services Division is responsible for reviewing proposed preparation programs, consulting with external reviewers, as needed, and communicating with institutions and local education agencies about their program proposals. The Commission budget supports the costs of these activities. The Commission's base budget also includes resources to support review of institutional proposals for initial accreditation. No augmentation of the budget is needed for continuation of the program review and approval activities.

Policy Question

Should the subject matter programs identified in this item be approved? Should Otis College of Art and Design be granted initial institutional accreditation?

Recommendation

That the Commission approve the subject matter preparation programs listed and that the Commission grant initial institutional accreditation to the Otis College of Art and Design.

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Part I

Subject Matter Preparation Program Review Panel Recommendations

Background

Subject Matter Program Review Panels are responsible for the review of proposed subject matter preparation programs. This item contains a listing of subject matter programs recommended for approval since the last Commission meeting by the appropriate review panels, according to procedures adopted by the Commission.

Summary Information on Single Subject Matter Preparation Programs Awaiting Commission Approval

For the following proposed preparation programs, each institution has responded fully to the Commission's standards and preconditions for subject matter preparation for Single Subject Teaching Credentials. Each of the programs has been reviewed thoroughly by the Commission's Subject Matter Program Review Panels and has met all applicable standards and preconditions established by the Commission and are recommended for approval by the appropriate subject matter review panel.

Recommendation

That the Commission approve the following programs of subject matter preparation for Single Subject Teaching Credentials.

AGRICULTURE

- California State University, Chico
- California Polytechnic State University, Pomona

Part II

Recommendation for Initial Institutional Accreditation for the Otis College of Art and Design

Background

Prior to the *Accreditation Framework (1995)*, institutions not previously approved to offer programs of professional preparation would submit a program proposal responding to the Commission's preconditions and standards. If the institution was accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) or another regional accrediting body and if the response to the preconditions and standards was judged to be satisfactory, the Commission voted to give approval to the institution to begin offering one or more programs. Under the *Accreditation Framework*, a distinction is made between "initial accreditation of institutions" and "initial accreditation of programs," as described below.

Initial Accreditation of Institutions

Under the authority of the Education Code, the Commission is given the responsibility to determine the eligibility of institutions to offer preparation programs and to recommend issuance of credentials to candidates completing programs of preparation.

Education Code Section 44227 (a) – The Commission may approve any institution of higher education whose teacher education program meets the standards prescribed by the Commission, to recommend to the Commission the issuance of credentials to persons who have successfully completed those programs.

Education Code Section 44372 – The powers and duties of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing regarding the accreditation system shall include the following:

- (c) Rule on the eligibility of an applicant for accreditation when the applying institution has not previously prepared educators for state certification in California, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 44227.

Accreditation Framework Section 4 A 1 - Initial Accreditation of Institutions. A postsecondary education institution that has not previously been declared eligible to offer credential preparation programs must submit an application to the Commission for initial professional accreditation. Institutional accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) or another regional accrediting body is required for initial professional accreditation by the Commission. The Commission may establish additional procedures and criteria for the initial professional accreditation of institutions to prepare and recommend candidates for state credentials in education.

Under the above provisions, the only specific criterion for initial accreditation of institutions is regional accreditation. However, the Commission is given authority by the *Framework* to establish additional procedures and criteria. The Commission did adopt procedures and added the review of responses to the institutional preconditions to the list of requirements for initial accreditation.

Adopted Procedures for Initial Accreditation of Institutions

In October 1998, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing adopted procedures for the Initial Accreditation of Institutions. The procedures apply to institutions who have not previously prepared educators for state certification in California:

1. The institution prepares a complete program proposal, responding to all preconditions, Common Standards and appropriate Program Standards. The proposal will be considered as the application for accreditation.
2. Initial Accreditation will be considered a two-stage process:
 - a. The proposal will be reviewed for compliance with the appropriate institutional preconditions (regional accreditation, institutional responsibility, non-discrimination procedures, completion of a needs assessment, involvement of practitioners in the design of the program, agreement to provide information to the Commission, etc.) and brought before the Commission for initial accreditation action. If the proposal meets the Commission's requirements, the institution will be recommended for initial accreditation.
 - b. If the Commission acts favorably on the proposal, it will be forwarded to the Committee on Accreditation for program accreditation action according to adopted procedures. *(In the case of subject matter preparation programs, the proposal is forwarded to the Commission for action according to adopted procedures.)*
3. Once granted initial accreditation, the institution will then come under the continuing accreditation procedures already adopted by the Committee on Accreditation and will participate in the six year cycle for on-site reviews. *(In the case of subject matter preparation programs, the institution comes under any ongoing review procedures adopted by the Commission.)*

Request for Initial Institutional Accreditation from the Otis College of Art and Design

Otis College of Art and Design has been in existence for over eighty years. General Harrison Gray Otis, the founder and publisher of the Los Angeles Times, bequeathed his Spanish-Moorish mansion to the city for “the advancement of the arts.” In September 1918, the site became the Otis Art Institute. The school was fondly called “The Bivouac,” General Otis’ name for his home. During the 1940’s, Norman Rockwell was an artist-in-residence. In 1949 the institution was renamed the Los Angeles County Art Institute, but in 1958 went back to its original name. The institution expanded its curriculum to become a four year college and offered both the BFA and MFA degrees. The school has a long tradition of hiring faculty members who are also working artists. The School of Fashion Design was founded in 1980. The institution achieved accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 1986. In 1992 the institution changed its status to that of an independent, non-profit college and is now called the Otis College of Art and Design. There are approximately 800 students.

Otis College of Art and Design is seeking initial institutional accreditation by the Commission to be able to offer an approved program of subject matter preparation in art. The purpose of the proposed program is to provide sequential learning that prepares culturally diverse students to teach a range of visual arts subject matter in the California public school systems, and that enables them to complete the subject matter requirement for the Single Subject Credential in Art. Eventually, the institution may develop a professional preparation program for the Single Subject Teaching Credential, but currently it only proposing a subject matter preparation program.

The proposed program will be located within the Colleges’ School of Fine Arts. All students enrolled in the Program will major in Fine Arts with a required concentration in either painting, photography or sculpture/new genres. Students must complete 130 units to graduate. This includes 30 units of Liberal Arts and Sciences and 18 units of Art History.

Review of Institutional Proposal

The institutional accreditation proposal was reviewed by Dr. Lawrence Birch, Administrator of Accreditation. Otis College of Art and Design has submitted a complete response to all preconditions, and all Program Standards for the Subject Matter Preparation Programs in Art.

The institution is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. On the basis of that accreditation and the appropriate responses to the preconditions, Otis College of Art and Design is recommended for initial institutional accreditation. The institutional responses to the program standards have been forwarded to the Art Subject Matter Program Review Panel and have received an initial review by that body. If the Commission grants initial institutional accreditation to Otis College of Art and Design, and the subject matter proposal has been thoroughly reviewed by the Art Subject Matter Review Panel and the panel has determined that the program meets all standards, a recommendation will be brought back to the Commission for approval of the subject matter preparation program in Art.